

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00

USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7594

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INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORH: MID EAST CONFLICT

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF OCT 18 MEDIA COVERAGE OF MID-EAST INCLUDE INCREASED NEWS REPORTS AND COMMENTARIES ON U.S. AID TO ISRAEL, EDITORIAL REACTION TO SADAT/MEIR SPEECHES, AND REPORTS FROM WORLD CAPITALS EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF WAR.

2. YUGOSLAV PRESS GIVES FULL PLAY TO NEWS REPORTS OF U.S. SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL. TANJUG'S BEIRUT CORR CITES REGULAR FLOW OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY TO ISRAEL "FROM AMERICAN BASES IN EUROPE" WHICH ISRAELIS WILL USE TO "RETAIN OCCUPIED LANDS AND NOT FOR ITS OWN DEFENSE, AS TEL AVIV WISHES IT TO APPEAR" (BORBA, OCT 18). ALTHOUGH USSR AID TO ARABS RECEIVES OCCASIONAL MENTION, COMMENTARIES USUALLY TAKE GENERAL LINE THAT SOVIETS FURNISHING "DEFENSIVE EWAPONS" TO ARAB "VICTIMS OF AGRESSION" (VECERNJE NOVOSTI, OCT 18).

3. EDITORIAL COMMENTARY ON RECENT SADAT/MEIR SPEECHES DRAWS SHARP DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "BELLICOSE", "MILITANT" ADDRESS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAELI PREMIER AND "STATESMANLIKE" MESSAGE OF EGYPTIAN

PRESIDENT. IN OCT 18 POLITIKA EDIT, ALEKSANDAR NENADOVIC
PRAISES SADAT APPROACH TO PEACE SETTLEMENT AND "VOICE OF
RENEWED SELF-CONFIDENCE BUT NOT VENGEFUL SELF-SATISFACTION."
VLADO TESLIC EDIT IN BELGRADE DAILY BORBA NOTES THAT SADAT
MESSAGE "PARTIALLY ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT NIXON," EDIT
STATES THAT U.S. HAS OFTEN "TURNED DEAF EAR TO SUCH WARN-
INGS," BUT NOW MUST CHOOSE WORLD PEACE AS TOP PRIORITY
AND ONLY THUS, "FREE ITSELF FROM BEING ISRAEL'S PRISONER."

4. "RED" TANJUG OCT 17 CITES WASHINGTON POST STORY BY DAN
MORGAN ON U.S. PROTEST OF SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS OF YUGOSLAVIA
AND REPORTS MCCLOSKEY STATEMENTS ON SUBJECT AT PRESS CONFER-
ENCE.
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